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## ARIZONA MAN SENTENCED FOR USING THE INTERNET TO ATTEMPT TO COERCE A MINOR FEMALE TO ENGAGE IN UNLAWFUL SEXUAL ACTIVITY

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TRAVIS E. CARLTON, 37, of Phoenix, Arizona was sentenced to federal prison for a term of 60 months (5 years) by the Honorable Anthony W. Ishii for his conviction for using the internet to attempt to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.

The case was the result of a joint investigation by the Visalia Police Department and the Fresno office of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David Gappa and Sheila Oberto, who prosecuted the case, CARLTON admitted in a plea agreement that from June 12, 2005, through June 20, 2005, he engaged in multiple online chat sessions, via Yahoo! Messenger, with a minor female and requested that she produce and then transmit to him sexually explicit images of herself. Court documents indicate that CARLTON, then a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, was in Visalia, California on a business assignment when he communicated with the minor female. He arranged to meet her at El Diamante High School in Visalia and intended to have illegal sexual activity with her. Law enforcement officers became aware of CARLTON'S chats, assumed control of the minor female's Yahoo! account, and arrested CARLTON when he appeared at the agreed upon meeting location.

CARLTON was remanded into federal custody upon pleading guilty on January 8, 2007. After serving his prison sentence, CARLTON will be on supervised release for 120 months during which the defendant's access to computers, the internet, and minors will be restricted. CARLTON will be required to register as a sex offender.

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